

REMARKS**i) Status of the Claims**

Applicants hereby amend originally filed claim 13 and present new claims 21-27.

Claims 14-20 are cancelled without prejudice in view of Applicant's response to the restriction requirement. Accordingly, claims 1-13 and 21-27 are pending in the instant application. All of the pending claims are directed to a method of inhibiting expression of a target allele in a cell comprising the administration of a siRNA targeting a mutation.

Support for the above amendments can be found throughout the application and claims as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

ii) Substitute Sequence Listing

The substitute Sequence Listing enclosed herewith has been voluntarily amended to correct certain errors, and not for reasons related to patentability.

I hereby state that the amendments included in the substitute Sequence Listing are supported in the application, as filed, at least in Figures 1A and 3A (Drawing Sheets 1 and 3 of 9), for the amendments to SEQ ID NOs: **1-6 and 9-14**. The amendments to **SEQ ID NOs 1-6 and 9-14** in the Sequence Listing reflect U.S. filing information. Thus, the substitute Sequence Listing does not include new matter.

A copy of the substitute Sequence Listing in computer readable form, along with the required Statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.825(a) and 1.825(b), are filed simultaneously herewith.

iii) Elections/Restrictions

The Examiner has required restriction of the claims to one of the following inventions under 35 U.S.C. §121:

Group I: Claims (1), 2-11 and 13, drawn to a method of inhibiting expression of a target allele in a cell comprising the administration of an siRNA targeting a G256C mutation, classifiable in class 514, subclass 44.

Group II: Claims (1), 2-10, 12, and 14 drawn to a method of inhibiting expression of a target allele in a cell comprising the administration of an siRNA targeting a G281C mutation, classifiable in class 514, subclass 44.

Group III: Claims 14-16, and 19, drawn to an siRNA shown in Figure 1A, classified in class 536, subclass 23.1.

Group IV: Claims 17, 18, and 20, drawn to an shRNA comprising the sequence set forth in Figure 3A, classifiable in class 536, subclass 24.5.

Accordingly, Applicants hereby elect Group I for continued examination and prosecution on the merits.

Applicants note that Claim 1 links Groups I and II and that the restriction between Groups I and II is subject to the non-allowance of the linking claim (see page 4 of Office Action). Accordingly, Applicants note that the claims of Group II will be rejoined and fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104 in the event that claim 1 is found to be allowable.

Applicants believe no fee is due with this statement. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 12-0080, under Order No. UMY-038 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: **July 10, 2006**

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Debra J. Milasincic

Registration No.: 46,931

LAHIVE & COCKFIELD, LLP

28 State Street

Boston, Massachusetts 02109

(617) 227-7400

(617) 742-4214 (Fax)

Attorney for Applicants